



# St. Ambrose Barlow

## Catholic Primary School

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St. Ambrose Barlow Catholic Primary School, 841 Shirley Road, Hall Green, Birmingham, B28 9JJ

Friday 16th January 2026

Dear parents,

Happy New Year! Welcome back to all our families and pupils after what

I hope was a relaxing and enjoyable Christmas break.



Last week, we had the added surprise of a closure due to snow on Friday but I want to thank you all for your understanding. It is never an easy decision to close the school but my logic was that snow makes access to our site very difficult and travel to school would have been nigh on impossible so the more notice I gave parents about the situation, the easier it would be to make alternative arrangements. Thankfully, due to the rain and warmer temperatures, we could open as normal on Monday.

Today, Year Six have represented the school wonderfully well while visiting St Chad's and Year Five have ended our day beautifully with a class Mass that focused on St Anthony the Abbot and was celebrated by Father John. Year Six will also be present at Mass this Sunday at 10am before their Confirmation next week!

### **Golden Book**

**Reception:** Essa Mehmood has made a brilliant start back this term. He is applying himself well and sitting on the carpet and trying to listen to everything his teachers are saying. Well done, Essa – this is amazing to see and her!

**Year One:** Michael Doran for his wonderful reading in class. During his phonics sessions, he is showing fantastic prosody, using expression to get the meaning of the author across to the audience. Reading is so important and it is brilliant that Michael is already doing this with such enthusiasm.

**Year Two:** Since coming back after the Christmas break, Zinedine Khan has shown a hard-working attitude. He is trying his best in everything he does and always makes a great effort, even when it is tricky. It has been so good to hear him share more willingly in class room, and by doing this, his confidence is growing as well. Well done, Zinedine!

**Year Three:** This week, Tianna Lawton has impressed her teachers with her writing. In Year Three, we have looked at similes and metaphors to try and enhance our descriptive writing and Tianna's writing has been excellent! She also shows incredible resilience during Maths and her hard work is paying off!

**Year Four:** Logan Harris has had a fantastic start to the year. He has really impressed with his enthusiasm and knowledge in Science this week. His presentation is lovely and we can't wait to see what he has in store for us this

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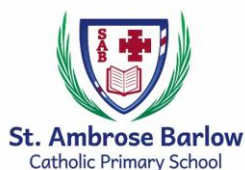
year. Well done, Logan, for being such a good role model for others.

**Year Five:** Alex Currington has come back to school after his break ready to work and eager to do his best in every lesson. He is a conscientious worker who really enjoys learning and is keen to help and support others when he can. Alex always brings a smile to Mrs McGrory's face when he greets her every morning. He is very polite and well-mannered. It is a real joy to have this pupil in the classroom; he is always asking relevant and interesting questions and is respectful to everyone. Keep it up, Alex, you are a brilliant role model for others.

**Year Six:** Elora Tipper continues to impress all teachers who work with her in Year 6. She is attentive, focused and completes all work to a very high standard. Elora is everything you could wish for in a friend. It is clear to see from her friendships that she is someone who we all think highly of. Keep up the excellent work, Elora - we are all excited to see what the future holds for you!

### Vacancies

We are currently advertising for an Office Manager (Grade Three). Please see the advert on the school website for more details and an application form. This does mean that we are about to lose Mrs Corrigan who is ready to bring all her skills and considerable expertise to a new setting in the course of time. I will make more of a fuss of her when the time for her to depart is upon us but, for now, I know



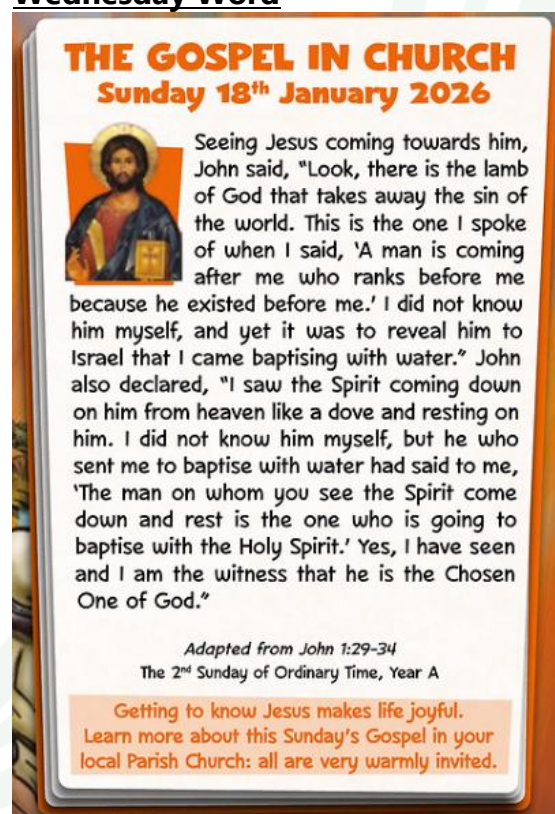
you will join me in thanking her for all her hard work since her appointment way back in 2021.

We are also about to advertise for a part-time Receptionist / Administrative assistant at Grade Two (20 hours per week). If you know of anyone who may be interested, please let me know.

### Values and Virtues

This half-term, we are focusing on being curious and active – curious about the world around us, asking questions about why things are the way they are, and being active in our efforts to bring about a better tomorrow.

### Wednesday Word



**THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH**  
**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

Seeing Jesus coming towards him, John said, "Look, there is the lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world. This is the one I spoke of when I said, 'A man is coming after me who ranks before me because he existed before me.' I did not know him myself, and yet it was to reveal him to Israel that I came baptising with water." John also declared, "I saw the Spirit coming down on him from heaven like a dove and resting on him. I did not know him myself, but he who sent me to baptise with water had said to me, 'The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and rest is the one who is going to baptise with the Holy Spirit.' Yes, I have seen and I am the witness that he is the Chosen One of God."

*Adapted from John 1:29-34*  
The 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year A

Getting to know Jesus makes life joyful.  
Learn more about this Sunday's Gospel in your local Parish Church: all are very warmly invited.

Year Six will help lead Mass on Sunday. One of the bidding prayers reads as follows: "*We, like John the Baptist, will bear witness to Christ*" which sums up our vocation succinctly.

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### Hall Green Library visits

Our weekly visits to Hall Green library resumed yesterday with Year Two visiting. See below for the rest of the dates:

**Thurs 22nd Jan:** Year Four

**Thurs 29th Jan:** Year Three

**Thurs 5th Feb:** Year Five

**Thurs 12th Feb:** Year Six

**Thurs 26th Feb:** Year Two

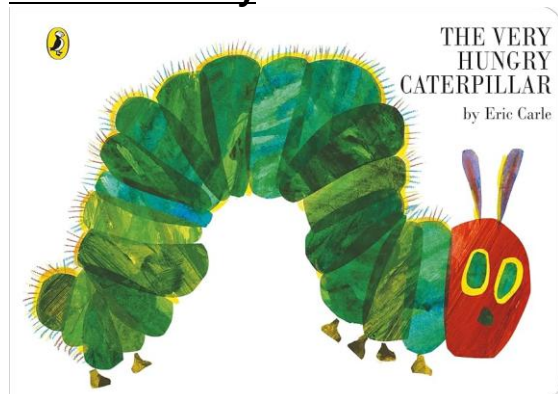
**Thurs 5th March:** World Book Day (no visit)

**Thurs 12th March:** Year Three

**Thurs 19th March:** Year Four

**Thurs 26th March:** Year Five @2pm and Six @ 2:30pm

### World Book Day

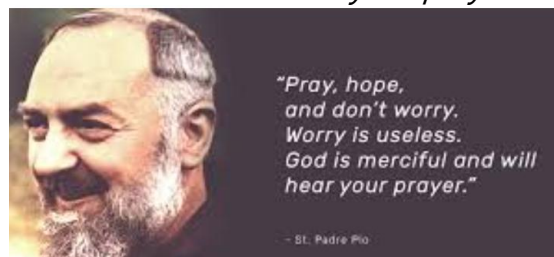


This will take place on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March. Children are invited to come into school dressed as their favourite character from a book. The theme this year, which you are free not to follow unless you are a member of staff, is the Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle. So, come as whatever literary figure you choose, but if you are short on ideas, come as a pear or a pickle or a slice of cake or a slice of cheese or a chorizo ring or slice of cherry pie!



### Learn from the Saints

Some lovely words from one of Father Paul's favourite saints, Padre Pio: *"God is merciful and will hear your prayer"*.



### Learn from each other....

The whole of Year Six have grown in maturity over the course of the last term and each and every one of them has acted with such maturity during their Confirmation preparation. I was especially impressed by each of their individual Confirmation projects.

*"You don't have to be dull to be a saint. You don't have to be 100% perfect. To be a saint, you just have to be the person God made you to be, then he will make you holy through your struggles and obstacles."*

I thought initially that the above was a quote from St Teresa of the Andes as it appeared on Maeve Henvey's project about her Confirmation saint. However, I am happy to stand corrected. These are not the words of St Teresa of the Andes at all – they are in fact Maeve's own reflections on what it means to be called to be a saint in the modern world. Maeve, you are an incredible pupil that this school is very lucky to have.

### Bad weather warning

Thank you again for your support last Friday. In future, I will endeavour to let you know as soon as possible if we are

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to close, but please rest in the knowledge that full closure will always be as a last resort. If a closure happens again, you will be emailed directly. We will also post on Instagram and on our own school website.

### **Sublime Science**

Thanks to the PTA who have paid for the children to experience a Science workshop this half-term. I will share the date with you when I finally get round to booking it!

### **Sparks**

On Tuesday 27th January at 10am, firefighters from Billesley Community Fire Station will visit our school to speak to our Year Four children. Children will learn and practice the 'Stop, Drop and Roll' technique and how to keep themselves and others safe.

### **Local Elections**

Birmingham Local Authority has informed us that the school will once again be used as polling station for the local elections. Therefore, school will be closed on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May and this will now be an INSET day which staff will use to start writing the children's end of year reports.

### **Birthdays this week**

Amazingly, not one child has had a birthday this week! However, happy birthday to Mia in Year Two who was seven last Wednesday and wasn't mentioned last week due to the lack of newsletter.



### **January dates for your diary**

**Sun 18<sup>th</sup> Jan:** Year Six to lead Sunday Mass 10am

**Thurs 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan:** Year Four to visit Hall Green library 2pm

**Fri 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan:** 2pm Year Six Confirmation Sponsor Workshop; 7pm Confirmation

**Tues 27<sup>th</sup> Jan:** 'Sparks' Year Four Fire Safety workshop

**Thurs 29<sup>th</sup> Jan:** Year Three to visit Hall Green library 2pm

**Fri 30<sup>th</sup> Jan:** Year Four Class Assembly

### **February dates for your diary**

**Thurs 5<sup>th</sup> Feb:** Year Five to visit Hall Green library 2pm

**Fri 6<sup>th</sup> Feb:** Year Three Class Assembly 9am; Year Six Class Mass 2:30pm

**Thurs 12<sup>th</sup> Feb:** Year Six to visit Hall Green library 2pm; **Break** up at 3:30 (club operating as normal)

**Fri 13<sup>th</sup> Feb:** School closed for INSET

**Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb:** School re-opens for all children

### **March dates for your diary**

**Sun 1<sup>st</sup> March:** Year Three 'Friendship' Mass

**Thurs 5<sup>th</sup> March:** World Book Day

**Thurs 12<sup>th</sup> March:** Year Five @ Black Country Museum; Year Three to visit Hall Green library 2pm

**Fri 13<sup>th</sup> March:** Year One Class Mass

**Mon 16<sup>th</sup> March:** Parent Consultations @ 3:40 -6:20

**Wed 18<sup>th</sup> March:** KS2 Reconciliation Service; Parent Consultations @ 3:40 - 6:20

**Thurs 19<sup>th</sup> March:** Year Four to visit Hall Green library 2pm

**Fri 20<sup>th</sup> March:** Year Two Class Mass

**Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> March:** Shakespeare Week

**Tues 24<sup>th</sup> March:** Year Three First Holy Communion INSPIRE Workshop 9am

**Wed 25<sup>th</sup> March:** Whole School Mass for the Annunciation 9:30am

**Thurs 26<sup>th</sup> March:** Year Five to visit Hall Green library @ 2pm and Year Six @ 2:30pm

**Sun 29<sup>th</sup> March:** Year Three children to lead Palm Sunday procession at 10am Mass

**Mon 30<sup>th</sup> March:** Year Three 'Palm Sunday' Holy Week assembly

**Tues 31<sup>st</sup> March:** Year Four 'Last Supper' Holy Week Assembly

#### **April dates for your diary**

**Wed 1<sup>st</sup> April:** Year Five 'Gethsemane' Holy Week Assembly

**Thurs 2<sup>nd</sup> April:** Year Six 'Stations of the Cross' Holy Week Assembly;  
Break up for Easter at 2pm – no club after-school

**Mon 20<sup>th</sup> April:** children return to school for Summer Term

#### **May dates for your diary**

**Thurs 7<sup>th</sup> May:** School closed for local elections

**Fri 8<sup>th</sup> May:** Year One Class Assembly

**Sat 9<sup>th</sup> May:** First Communion Mass for Year Three – times TBC

**Fri 15<sup>th</sup> May:** May procession 2pm

**Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> May:** Break up at normal time; club runs as normal

Have a wonderful weekend. Please join with us and Year Six for Mass on Sunday at 10am with music lead by the folk group.



Mr Clinton